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Homeland Security is removing protections that kept some Afghans from deportation

By **REBECCA SANTANA**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Temporary measures that allowed nearly 12,000 Afghans to work in the U.S. and be protected from deportation are expiring Monday as part of the Trump administration's efforts to make more people eligible for removal from the country.

The Department of Homeland Security in May said it was ending Temporary Protected Status for 11,700 people from Afghanistan in 60 days. That status had allowed them to work and meant the government couldn't deport them.

The number of Afghans protected by TPS is relatively small compared to the overall number of Afghans about 180,000 who have fled Afghanistan and come to the U.S. since the Taliban retook control of the country in 2021. It's also not clear how many of those 11,700 covered by TPS have applied for or received other forms of protection like asylum that would keep them from being deported after Monday.

But the removal of the protective status for Afghans has struck a chord with



Afghan refugees who returned after fleeing Iran to escape deportation and conflict line up at a UNHCR facility near the Islam Qala crossing in western Herat province, Afghanistan, on Friday, June 20, 2025.

Associated Press

many advocates and volunteers because of the suggestion that it is safe for Afghans many who helped the U.S. during its two-decade long war there to go home. "Since so many of those losing their protections served alongside U.S. forces, we should honor that service by upholding our promise to provide safety and ensure that they

have an opportunity to thrive here. We urge Congress to protect Afghans by providing them permanent status a commitment that is long overdue," Jennie Murray, President and CEO of the National Immigration Forum, said in a news release Monday.

At the time that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ended the tempo-

rary protected status for Afghans, the department wrote in the decision that the situation in their home country was getting better. "The Secretary determined that, overall, there are notable improvements in the security and economic situation such that requiring the return of Afghan nationals to Afghanistan does not pose a threat to

their personal safety due to armed conflict or extraordinary and temporary conditions," according to the May announcement.

Temporary Protected Status can be granted by the Homeland Security secretary to people of various nationalities who are in the United States. They can't be deported and can work legally but they don't have a pathway to citizenship.

The status is inherently precarious because it is up to the Homeland Security secretary to renew the protections regularly usually every 18 months. The first Trump administration tried to remove many of these temporary protected statuses but was largely foiled by the courts.

This time around, the Trump administration has moved even more aggressively to remove the protections, thus making more people eligible for removal from the country. The administration has pushed to remove temporary protected status from people from seven countries with Venezuela and Haiti making up the biggest chunk of the hundreds of thousands of people losing their protections. □

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lowed nearly 12,000 Af-



Bihajira Shams of Afghanistan, second from left, and Htoo Rah of Burma, center, celebrate with other applicants from 20 countries as they prepare to take an oath of citizenship in commemoration of Independence Day during a Naturalization Ceremony in San Antonio, Thursday, July 3, 2025.

Associated Press

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served alongside U.S. forces, we should honor that service by upholding our promise to provide safety and ensure that they have an opportunity to thrive here. We urge Congress to protect Afghans by providing them permanent status a commitment that is long overdue," Jennie Murray, President and CEO of the National Immigration Forum, said in a news release Monday. At the time that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ended the temporary protected status for Afghans, the department wrote in the decision that the situation in their home country was getting better. □

More than 20 states sue Trump administration over frozen after-school and summer funding

By **BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TON-ESS**

AP Education Writer

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)

— More than 20 states sued President Donald Trump's administration on Monday over billions of dollars in frozen education funding for after-school care, summer programs and more.

Some of the withheld money funds after-school and summer programming at Boys & Girls Clubs, the YMCA or public schools, attended by 1.4 million children and teenagers nationwide. Congress set aside money for the programs to provide academic support, enrichment and child care to mostly low-income families. But Trump's administration recently froze the funding, saying it wants to ensure programs align with the Republican president's priorities.

Led by California, the lawsuit alleges withholding the money violates the Constitution and several federal laws. Many low-income families will lose access to after-school programs if the money isn't released soon, according to the suit. In some states, school restarts in late July and early August. The Department of Education did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

After-school programs for the fall are in jeopardy. Darleen Reyes drove through a downpour last week to take her son to a free Boys & Girls Club day camp in East Providence, Rhode Island. She told camp administrators the flash flood warning would have kept her away, but her son insisted on going. Before kissing his mother goodbye, Aiden Cazares, 8, explained to a reporter, "I wanted to see my friends and not just sit at home." Then he ran off to play.

In Rhode Island, the state stepped in with funding to keep the summer programs running, according to the East Providence club, and the state has joined the federal lawsuit. Other Boys & Girls Clubs supported by the grants have found



Children raise their hands while participating in activities during the East Providence Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp at Emma G. Whiteknact Elementary School on Thursday, July 10, 2025, in Providence R.I.

Associated Press

ways to keep open their summer programs, said Sara Leutinger, vice president for communications for the Boys & Girls Club of America. But there isn't the same hope for the after-school programming for the fall.

Some of the 926 Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide that run summer and after-school programs stand to close if the Trump administration doesn't release the money in the next three to five weeks, Leutinger said. The clubs receive funding from the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

The YMCA and Save the Children say many of the centers they run are also at risk of shuttering.

"Time is of the essence," said Christy Gleason, executive director of the political arm of Save the Children, which provides after-school programming for 41 schools in rural areas in Washington state and across the South, where school will begin as soon as August. "It's not too late to make a decision so the kids who really need this still have it."

Rural and Republican-led areas especially affected. Schools in Republican-led areas are particularly af-

ected by the freeze in federal education grants. Ninety-one of the 100 school districts that receive the most money per student from four frozen grant programs are in Republican congressional districts, according to an analysis from New America, a left-leaning think tank. New America's analysis used funding levels reported in 2022 in 46 states.

Republican officials have been among the educators criticizing the grant freeze.

"I deeply believe in fiscal responsibility, which means evaluating the use of funds and seeking out efficiencies, but also means being responsible releasing funds already approved by Congress and signed by President Trump," said Georgia schools superintendent Richard Woods, an elected Republican. "In Georgia, we're getting ready to start the school year, so I call on federal funds to be released so we can ensure the success of our students."

The Office of Management and Budget said some grants supported left-wing causes, pointing to services for immigrants in the country illegally or LGBTQ+ inclusion efforts.

But Congress' appropriation of the money was in a bill signed by Trump himself, said Maurice "Mo" Green, North Carolina's Democratic superintendent of public education. "To now suggest that, for some reason, this money is somehow or another needing review because of someone's agenda, I think is deeply troubling," Green told reporters Monday after North Carolina joined the federal lawsuit.

In North Carolina, about 40 schools are already in session, so the state is already trying to figure out ways to keep programs going, using state and local money, along with some federal money that has not expired.

The freeze affects programs including mental health services, science and math education, and support for students learning English, North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson said, with the most severe effects in smaller, rural school districts. The freeze could also lead to approximately 1,000 teachers and staff being laid off, Jackson said.

Summer clubs provide instruction for children. At the East Providence summer camp, Aiden, a

rising third grader, played tag, built structures with magnetic tiles, played a fast-paced game with the other kids to review addition and subtraction, learned about pollination, watched a nature video and ate club-provided chicken nuggets.

Veteran teachers from his school corrected him when he spoke without raising his hand and offered common-sense advice when a boy in his group said something inappropriate.

"When someone says something inappropriate, you don't repeat it," teacher Kayla Creighton told the boys between answering their questions about horseflies and honeybees.

Indeed, it's hard to find a more middle-of-the road organization in this country than the Boys & Girls Club.

Just last month, a Republican and a Democrat sponsored a resolution in the U.S. House celebrating the 165-year-old organization as a "beacon of hope and opportunity." The Defense Department awarded the club \$3 million in 1991 to support children left behind when their parents deployed for the Persian Gulf. And ever since, the Boys & Girls Club has created clubs on military installations to support the children of service members. Military families can sign up their kids for free.

"I suspect they will realize that most of those grants are fine and will release them," said Mike Petrilli, president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a conservative education policy think tank, speaking of the Trump administration's review of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants.

But not everyone is so sure. Families see few affordable child care alternatives. Aiden's mother has started looking into afternoon child care for September when kids return to school in Rhode Island.

"It costs \$220 a week," Reyes said, her eyes expanding. "I can't afford that." □

Trump administration says it won't publish major climate change report on NASA website as promised

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Monday took another step to make it harder to find major, legally mandated scientific assessments of how climate change is endangering the nation and its people.

Earlier this month, the official government websites that hosted the authoritative, peer-reviewed national climate assessments went dark. Such sites tell state and local governments and the public what to expect in their backyards from a warming world and how best to adapt to it. At the time, the White House said NASA would house the reports to comply with a 1990 law that requires the reports, which the space agency said it planned to do.

But on Monday, NASA announced that it aborted those plans.

"The USGCRP (the govern-

ment agency that oversees and used to host the report) met its statutory requirements by presenting its reports to Congress. NASA has no legal obligations to host globalchange.gov's data," NASA Press Secretary Bethany Stevens said in an email. That means no data from the assessment or the government science office that coordinated the work will be on NASA, she said.

On July 3, NASA put out a statement that said: "All preexisting reports will be hosted on the NASA website, ensuring continuity of reporting." "This document was written for the American people, paid for by the taxpayers, and it contains vital information we need to keep ourselves safe in a changing climate, as the disasters that continue to mount demonstrate so tragically and clearly," said Texas Tech climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe. She is chief scientist at The Nature



Workers on scaffolding repaint the NASA logo near the top of the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., May 20, 2020.

Associated Press

Conservancy and co-author of several past national climate assessments.

Copies of past reports are still squirreled away in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's library and the latest report and its interactive atlas can be seen here.

Former Obama White House science adviser and climate scientist John Holdren ac-

cused the administration of outright lying and long intended to censor or bury the reports.

"The new stance is classic Trump administration misdirection," Holdren said. "In this instance, the administration offers a modest consolation to quell initial outrage over the closure of the global-change.gov site and the disappearance of the Na-

tional Climate Assessments. Then, two weeks later, they snatch away the consolation with no apology."

"They simply don't want the public to see the meticulously assembled and scientifically validated information about what climate change is already doing to our farms, forests, and fisheries, as well as to storms, floods, wildfires, and coast property — and about how all those damages will grow in the absence of concerted remedial action," Holdren said in an email.

That's why it's important that state and local governments and every day people see these reports, Holdren said. He said they are written in a way that is "useful to people who need to understand what climate change is doing and will do to THEM, their loved ones, their property and their environment."

"Trump doesn't want people to know," Holdren wrote. □

Retired Army officer pleads guilty to sharing classified info on Russia-Ukraine war on dating site

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI**
Associated Press

A retired Army officer who worked as a civilian for the Air Force has pleaded guilty to conspiring to transmit classified information about Russia's war with Ukraine on a foreign online dating platform.

David Slater, 64, who had top secret clearance at his job at the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, pleaded guilty to a single count before a federal magistrate judge in Omaha on Thursday. In exchange for his guilty plea, two other counts were dropped.

Slater remains free pending his sentencing, which is scheduled for Oct. 8. Prosecutors and his lawyers agreed that he should serve between five years and 10 months and seven years and three months in prison, and the government will recommend a term at the low end of that range. The charge carries

a statutory maximum of 10 years behind bars.

U.S. District Judge Brian Buescher will ultimately decide whether to accept the plea agreement and will determine Slater's sentence.

"I conspired to willfully communicate national defense information to an unauthorized person," Slater said in a handwritten note on his

petition to change his plea. Slater had access to some of the country's most closely held secrets, John Eisenberg, assistant attorney general for national security, said in a statement.

"Access to classified information comes with great responsibility," said Lesley Woods, the U.S. attorney for Nebraska, said in the same statement. "David

Slater failed in his duty to protect this information by willingly sharing National Defense Information with an unknown online personality despite having years of military experience that should have caused him to be suspicious of that person's motives."

Slater retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 2020 and worked in a classified space at the base from around August 2021 until around April 2022. He attended briefings about the Russia-Ukraine war that were classified up to top secret, court documents say. He was arrested in March of 2024.

In his plea agreement, he acknowledged that he conspired to transmit classified information that he learned from those briefings via the foreign dating website's messaging platform to an unnamed co-conspirator, who claimed to be a woman living in Ukraine. The information,

classified as secret, pertained to military targets and Russian military capabilities, according to the plea agreement.

"Defendant knew and had reason to believe that such information could be used to the injury of the United States or the advantage of a foreign nation," the agreement states.

According to the original indictment, the coconspirator regularly asked Slater for classified information. She called him, "my secret informant love!" in one message. She closed another by saying, "You are my secret agent. With love." In another, she wrote, "Dave, I hope tomorrow NATO will prepare a very pleasant 'surprise' for (Russian President Vladimir) Putin! Will you tell me?"

Court documents don't identify the coconspirator, or say whether she was working for Ukraine or Russia. They also don't identify the dating platform. □



U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper holds a Q&A session during a visit to the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB, Neb., Feb. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

EU trade ministers say Trump's 30% tariffs are "absolutely unacceptable"

By **SAM McNEIL**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — EU trade ministers agreed Monday that U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of 30% tariffs on the European Union was "absolutely unacceptable," and they are studying a new set of countermeasures to respond to the move.

The ministers met Monday in Brussels following Trump's surprise announcement over the weekend of such hefty tariffs, which could have repercussions for governments, companies and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic. The EU is America's biggest business partner and the world's largest trading bloc.

Maroš Šefčovič, the EU's trade representative in its talks with the U.S., said after the meeting that it was "very obvious from the discussions today, the 30% is absolutely unacceptable." He said that the commission was sharing proposals with the 27 member countries "for the second list of goods accounting of some 72 billion euros (\$84 billion) worth of U.S. imports. They will now have a chance to discuss it. This does not exhaust our toolbox and ev-



The European Union flag stands inside the atrium at the European Council building in Brussels, June 17, 2024.

ery instrument remains on the table." Lars Løkke Rasmussen, foreign minister of Denmark, which recently assumed the presidency of the EU, said the ministers vowed to work together in negotiating a trade deal with Washington or agreeing on countermeasures.

"The EU remains ready to react and that includes robust and proportionate countermeasures if required and there was a

strong, feeling in the room of unity," Rasmussen told reporters after the meeting. The tariffs, also announced for Mexico, are set to start on Aug. 1 and could make everything from French cheese and Italian leather goods to German electronics and Spanish pharmaceuticals more expensive in the U.S., and destabilize economies from Portugal to Norway.

Meanwhile, Brussels decid-

ed to suspend retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods scheduled to take effect Monday in hopes of reaching a trade deal with the Trump administration by the end of the month.

The "countermeasures" by the EU, which negotiates trade deals on behalf of its 27 member countries, will be delayed until Aug. 1. Trump's letter shows "that we have until the first of August" to negotiate, Eu-

ropean Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters in Brussels on Sunday.

Maroš Šefčovič, the EU's trade representative in its talks with the U.S., said negotiations would continue Monday. "I'm absolutely 100% sure that a negotiated solution is much better than the tension which we might have after the 1st of August," he told reporters in Brussels on Monday. But he added that "we must be prepared for all outcomes."

"I cannot imagine walking away without genuine effort. Having said that, the current uncertainty caused by unjustified tariffs cannot persist indefinitely and therefore we must prepare for all outcomes, including, if necessary, well-considered proportionate countermeasures to restore the balance in our transit static relationship."

The letters to the EU and Mexico come in the midst of an on-and-off Trump threat to impose tariffs on countries and right an imbalance in trade.

Trump imposed tariffs in April on dozens of countries, before pausing them for 90 days to negotiate individual deals. □

Associated Press

Kosovo fighter's sentence cut to 13 years despite court upholding convictions for murder and torture

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Appeals judges at a European Union-backed court upheld murder, torture and arbitrary detention convictions against a former Kosovo war liberation fighter Monday. But they cut his prison term from 18 years to 13 years, saying judges imposed too harsh a sentence at his trial. Pjetër Shala was convicted a year ago for his role in the abuse of detainees being held by the Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA, at a makeshift jail in a metal factory in Kukës, northern Albania, during Kosovo's 1999 war for independence from Serbia. The 62-year-old Shala watched Monday's hearing at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers by videoconference, and shook his head after Judge Kai Ambos of Germany rejected large parts of his appeal and handed down the new sentence. The appeals panel, how-

ever, ruled that trial judges wrongly found him guilty of five cases of torture and two of arbitrary detention, saying there was insufficient evidence. But they upheld his convictions on the same counts for other detainees and for his role in the murder of one detainee, who was shot and then denied medical treatment. In reducing his sentence, the three-judge appeals panel ruled that trial judges didn't give sufficient weight to the fact that Shala didn't hold a command role when the man was murdered. The appeals judges also said that the original 18-year sentence was "out of reasonable proportion to comparable cases," the court said in a statement. Kimberly West, the prosecutor who leads the office that indicted Shala, welcomed the appeal judgment, which she said "reinforces the rule of law and contributes to achieving accountability for serious crimes and justice for Mr. Shala's victims." □



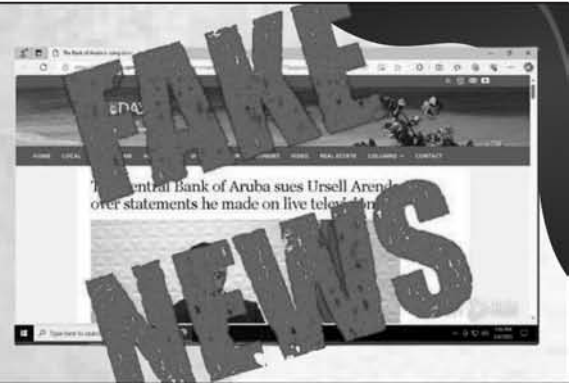
Former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) member Pjetër Shala attends his trial as judges at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers will hand down a judgment in The Hague, Netherlands, July 16 2024.

Associated Press

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Trump to make unprecedented second state visit to U.K. in September

By PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump will make an unprecedented second state visit to the U.K. between Sept. 17 and 19 when he will be hosted by King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace said Monday.

Trump, who is a big supporter of the royal family, particularly of the monarch, will be accompanied by his wife, Melania Trump, during the three-day visit, the palace confirmed.

No U.S. president has been invited for a second state visit. Trump previously enjoyed the pomp and pageantry of the state visit in 2019 during his first term when he was hosted by Charles' late mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

The invitation for the second state visit from the king was hand-delivered by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in February during a meeting at the White House.



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, left, hands an invitation from King Charles III for a second state visit to President Donald Trump at the White House, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

After reading it, Trump said it was a "great, great honor" and appeared particularly pleased by the fact he will be staying at Windsor Castle, to the west of the capital. "That's really something," he said.

Precedent for second-term

U.S. presidents who have already made a state visit is usually tea or lunch with the monarch at Windsor Castle, as was the case for George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

State visits are ceremonial meetings between heads

of state that are used to honor friendly nations and sometimes smooth relations between rivals. While the king formally issues the invitation for a state visit, he does so on the advice of the elected government.

The visit is seen as part of

Starmer's effort to keep Trump close and lessen the impact of some of his policies on the U.K. The relationship between the two appears amicable, and has helped the U.K. from facing the sort of hefty U.S. tariffs that other nations are seeing.

But like Trump's previous visit, it's unlikely he will be welcomed by all. Last time, protests included the flying of a giant blimp depicting Trump as an angry orange baby from outside Parliament.

Lawmakers from Starmer's Labour Party have also questioned whether the honor should be extended to Trump at a time that he is supporting Israel's war in Gaza and threatening the sovereignty of allies such as Canada and Greenland.

Charles could also face some challenges during the visit because he is head of state of both the United Kingdom and Canada, which Trump has suggested should become the 51st U.S. state. □

Leaders of Holy Land churches condemn Israeli settler violence during a West Bank visit



Char marks Palestinians say are from an attack by Israeli settlers are visible in the cemetery nearby the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in the West Bank village of Taybeh, Monday, July 14, 2025.

Associated Press

By FERNANDA PESCE and JULIA FRANKEL
Associated Press

TAYBEH, West Bank (AP) — Top church leaders in the Holy Land asserted Monday that Israeli authorities "facilitate and enable" the presence of Israeli settlers who have intensified attacks in recent weeks on the only entirely Christian Palestinian village remaining in the occupied West Bank.

Speaking in the village, Taybeh, on a rare solidarity visit, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III and Latin Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa denounced an incident last week when settlers set fires near the community's church. They alleged that Israeli authorities failed to respond to emergency calls for help from the Palestinian community.

In a separate statement, the patriarchs and heads of churches in Jerusalem demanded an investigation into the incident and called for the settlers to be held accountable by the Israeli authorities, "who facilitate and enable their presence around Taybeh." The church leaders also claimed that settlers had brought their cattle to graze on Palestinian lands in the area, set fire to several homes last month and put up a sign reading "there is no future for you here."

Israel's military did not immediately respond to the allegations.

It has previously said it takes action against outlaw settlers and that many incidents of settler violence involve stone-throwing and clashes between Israeli settlers and Palestinians. □

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need



to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you

just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is

used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment

NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of



Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Sunday to Thursday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at www.paseoherencia.com. □

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second time.

Advance tickets are suggested - and are less expensive - at www.ArubaComedy.com.

This is the same caliber show you would find at top comedy clubs in NYC. The comedians are truly some of the best from the United States, and perform in an excellent

on the Prairie." He has produced a new film coming out later this year called "No Longer, Not Yet."

Considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC, Ray is known as "Aruba Ray" because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past twelve years, and produces and hosts these incredible comedy shows on the island. He is a popular comedian in New York, and has brought his talent and colleagues to Aruba.

comedy club located at the Eagle Resort in Eagle Beach.

Ray Ellin hosts and produces the shows. Ray is also the host of the podcast "Wild Nights

In addition to doing the shows, Ray has supported many causes in Aruba, including being on the board of the One Love Foundation, which helps the dogs and cats of Aruba, and has led book drives for Aruban kids for years.

Ray has appeared on many television programs; he executive produced the Comedy Central

television show "This Week at the Cellar," hosted the popular talk show "Late Net," and hosted the television shows "The Movie Loft," "Brain Fuel," and "New York Now." He also produced and directed the very successful film "The Latin Legends of Comedy," distributed by 20th Century Fox.

The comedy shows are at 8:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday until August 14th.

The Double Down dinner menu is available, you must arrive by 6:45pm for that. Otherwise, arrive by 8pm for the show.

Purchase tickets in advance at www.ArubaComedy.com. Each ticket gives you a free casino promotion.

Ask your concierge for assistance, or call the Eagle Aruba Resort at 297-587-9000.

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Celebrating thirteen years of excellence in Aruba, Aruba Ray's Comedy is the number one rated Night Time Activity on TripAdvisor, and the number one rated Show on TripAdvisor. And, it was named as one of USA Today's "10 Best!" for the

Aruba to me

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WING
WEDNESDAYS



The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)— Known locally for its bright, yellow flowers, this special tree only blooms for three to four days only. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three to four days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The



Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawechea, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went

to go fetch Kudawechea. Upon telling Kudawechea that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aretima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aretima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawechea was determined to bring back Aretima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few

closed flowers at the very top. Kudawechea, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aretima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aretima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aretima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudawechea, satisfied to see Aretima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aretima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aretima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foun-



dation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundation's Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful

things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.



Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male)
Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □

Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.



Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.



Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let

their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.



Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.



Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 45 Smell
- 1 Rainbow shapes
- 5 Lists of candidates
- 11 Yard part
- 12 Roman orator
- 13 Clip contents
- 14 Bird sanctuary
- 15 Didn't go
- 17 List-shortening abbr.
- 18 Christina of "Sleepy Hollow"
- 22 Velvety flower
- 24 Berate
- 25 Outdated
- 26 Cattle call
- 27 Convenes
- 30 Shoe parts
- 32 Brake, for one
- 33 "Patience — virtue"
- 34 Won back
- 38 Orbit point
- 41 Together, in music
- 42 Red Cross headquarters
- 43 Richard of "Chicago"
- 44 Wine expert
- DOWN**
- 1 Miles off
- 2 Colosseum
- 3 Praised
- 4 Some ermines
- 5 Check-out act
- 6 Sources of bile
- 7 With a low pH
- 8 Caffeine source
- 9 Blunder
- 10 Kind of milk
- 16 Frozen over
- 19 Was in charge
- 20 Hoof sound
- 21 Altar exchange
- 22 Splendor
- 23 Out of the wind
- 28 Goal
- 29 Jacket part
- 30 Through
- 31 Crumbly cheese
- 35 Clock part
- 36 Franc's replacement
- 37 Some bucks
- 38 IRS employee
- 39 Casserole bit
- 40 Switch settings

M	O	B	S		S	V	E	L	T	E
A	B	U	T		A	I	R	I	E	R
P	I	T	Y		L	O	O	T	E	R
S	E	T		P	A	L	S			
			E	R	O	D	E		G	A
A	C	R	I	D		T	B	O	N	E
P	O	C	O				U	L	N	A
P	L	U	T	O		A	R	D	E	N
S	A	P		R	H	I	N	E		
			I	C	E	D		N	A	P
A	P	A	C	H	E		A	R	G	O
D	E	V	O	I	D		L	O	O	N
S	T	A	N	D	S		E	D	G	Y

- 19 Was in charge
- 20 Hoof sound
- 21 Altar exchange
- 22 Splendor
- 23 Out of the wind
- 28 Goal
- 29 Jacket part
- 30 Through
- 31 Crumbly cheese
- 35 Clock part
- 36 Franc's replacement
- 37 Some bucks
- 38 IRS employee
- 39 Casserole bit
- 40 Switch settings

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
		17				18		19	20	21
22	23					24				
25								26		
27			28	29		30	31			
32						33				
			34		35				36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-20 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

F D F T L H R Z B O O U U I ,
F D F T L H R Z B O Q X O Z P X W
R X A A F B M S F H K F F B H R F
Q U B H R M U V E J B F X B I X J O J M H .
— E F B B L R X B

Cryptoquote: OUR DEEPEST FEARS ARE LIKE DRAGONS, GUARDING OUR DEEPEST TREASURES. — RAINER MARIA RILKE

Cruise ship Schedule: July 02 - 16 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	08	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	09	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	15	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	16	OASIS OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	11.00 08.00 08.00 06.00	23.00 16.00 23.00 ****	I C B E	1 1 1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourists that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

			1	8			3	
			3					9
	7	5	4	9		8		1
	4			2		3		8
6								2
		3		4	9			7
4						1	7	6
5		7	9			2	8	
	6		8	7	4		9	3

Difficulty: ★★

7/15

Answer to previous puzzle

2	1	3	8	6	7	4	5	9
4	7	6	1	9	5	8	2	3
9	5	8	4	3	2	6	7	1
6	3	1	7	4	8	2	9	5
7	9	5	2	1	6	3	8	4
8	2	4	3	5	9	7	1	6
1	8	9	6	7	3	5	4	2
3	4	7	5	2	1	9	6	8
5	6	2	9	8	4	1	3	7

Difficulty: ★

7/14

U.S. ice cream makers say they'll stop using artificial dyes by 2028



The giant Turkey Hill Cow looms over festival goers sampling ice cream at Taste of Omaha on May 31, 2015, in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

By JONEL ALECCIA
AP Health Writer

Ice cream makers representing about 90% of the U.S. supply of the frozen treat have pledged to remove artificial dyes from their products in less than three years, federal health officials said Monday. The move is the latest voluntary effort by food manufacturers to heed calls from the Trump administration to remove synthetic dyes over concerns about potential health effects. In recent weeks, companies including Nestle, Kraft Heinz and General Mills said they would pull artificial colors from their foods, too. "This is a Renaissance moment for health in America," U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary said

at a news conference. About 40 makers of ice cream and frozen dairy desserts said they would remove seven petroleum-based dyes from their products by 2028, according to Michael Dykes, president of the International Dairy Foods Association. The colors are Red 3, Red 40, Green 3, Blue 1, Blue 2, Yellow 5 and Yellow 6. The trade group wouldn't identify the firms, although Turkey Hill Dairy chief executive Andy Jacobs joined the gathering.

The national focus on artificial food dyes is "a good step to take," but officials should not ignore larger known contributors to chronic disease, including the added sugars and saturated fat commonly found in ice cream, said Deanna Hoelscher, a University of Texas nutrition expert. "Just taking out or changing the food dye source is not necessarily going to make it a healthy option," she said. "It still is a food that should be consumed

in moderation." However, Makary also hinted that new federal dietary guidelines, expected later this year, would challenge established links between saturated fat and heart disease, ending what he called "a 70-year demonization of natural saturated fat." The average American eats about 4 gallons of ice cream a year, the IDFA said. Health advocates have long called for the removal of artificial dyes from foods, citing mixed studies showing that they may cause some neurobehavioral problems, such as hyperactivity and attention problems, in some children. The Food and Drug Administration has maintained that approved dyes are safe and that "most children have no adverse effects" when consuming foods made with them. □



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Noord	527 3200
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Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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'Eddington' is a satire about our broken brains that might re-break your brain

By **LINDSEY BAHR** AP Film Writer

You might need to lie down for a bit after "Eddington." Preferably in a dark room with no screens and no talking. "Eddington," Ari Aster's latest nightmare vision, is sure to divide (along which lines, I'm can't fathom) but there is one thing I think everyone will be able to agree on: It is an experience that will leave you asking "WHAT?" The movie opens on the aggravated ramblings of an unhoused man and doesn't get much more coherent from there. Approach with caution.

We talk a lot about movies as an escape from the stresses of the world. "Eddington," in which a small, fictional town in New Mexico becomes a microcosm of life in the misinformation age, and more specifically during the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests, is very much the opposite of that. It is an anti-escapist symphony of masking debates, conspiracy theories, YouTube prophets, TikTok trends and third-rail topics in which no side is spared. Most everyone looks insane and ridiculous by the end, from the white teenage girl (Amélie Hoeferle) telling a Black



This image released by A24 shows Joaquin Phoenix, left, and Pedro Pascal in a scene from "Eddington."

cop (Michael Ward) to join the movement, to the grammatical errors of the truthers, as the town spirals into chaos and gruesome violence.

Joaquin Phoenix plays the town sheriff, a soft-spoken wife guy named Joe Cross, who we meet out in the desert one night watching YouTube videos about how to convince your wife to have a baby. He's interrupted by cops from the neighboring town, who demand he put on a mask since he's technically crossed the border.

It is May 2020, and everyone is a little on edge. Joe,

frustrated by the hysterical commitment to mandates from nowhere, finds himself the unofficial spokesperson for the right to go unmasked. He pits himself against the slick local mayor Ted Garcia (Pedro Pascal), who is up for reelection, in the pocket of big tech and ready to exploit his single fatherhood for political gain.

At home, Joe's mother-in-law Dawn (Deirdre O'Connell) spends all day consuming internet conspiracy theories, while his wife Louise (a criminally underused Emma Stone) works on crafts and nurses

unspoken traumas.

Joe's eagerness to take on Ted isn't just about masking. Years ago, Ted dated his now-wife, a story that will be twisted into rape and grooming accusations. Caricatures and stereotypes are everywhere in "Eddington," but in this world it feels like the women are especially underwritten they are kooks, victims, zealots and the ones who push fragile men to the brink. But in "Eddington," all the conspiracies are real and ordinary people are all susceptible to the madness. In fact, insanity is just an inevitability no matter how well-

intentioned one starts out, whether that's the woke-curious teen rattled by rejection, or the loyal deputy Guy (Luke Grimes) who is suddenly more than happy to accuse a colleague of murder. Louise will also be swayed by a floppy-haired internet guru, a cult-like leader played with perfect swagger by Austin Butler.

The problem with an anarchic satire like "Eddington," in theaters Friday, is that any criticism could easily be dismissed with a "that's the point" counter-argument. And yet there is very little to be learned in this silo of provocations that, like all Aster movies, escalates until the movie is over. There are moments of humor and wit, too, as well as expertly built tension and release. "Eddington" is not incompetently done or unwatchable (the cast and the director kind of guarantee that); it just doesn't feel a whole of anything other than a cinematic expression of broken brains.

Five years after we just went through (at least a lot of) this, "Eddington" somehow seems both too late and too soon, especially when it offers so little wisdom or insight beyond a vision of hopelessness. □

Associated Press

Take a first look at the new Harry Potter as HBO begins filming series

By **ITZEL LUNA**
Associated Press

HBO has officially started

production on the highly anticipated "Harry Potter" TV series adaption, the net-



This image released by HBO shows Dominic McLaughlin, who will portray Harry Potter, on the set of HBO series "Harry Potter," scheduled for 2027.

Associated Press

work announced Monday, also revealing a first look at the titular character.

The photo released by HBO shows Dominic McLaughlin as Harry Potter, donning the signature Hogwarts uniform paired with round-rim glasses and a lightning bolt scar, not unlike the iconic costume worn by Daniel Radcliffe in the eight-part film series.

The show began production at Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden in the U.K., and is expected to debut in 2027. A new round of actors were announced Monday, including Rory Wilmot as Neville Longbottom, Amos Kitson as Dudley Dursley,

Louise Brealey as Madam Rolanda Hooch and Anton Lesser as Garrick Ollivander. The network announced in late May that McLaughlin was cast as Harry Potter, Arabella Stanton as Hermione Granger, and Alastair Stout as Ron Weasley. Several high-profile actors have been announced in other key roles, including Paapa Essiedu as Severus Snape, John Lithgow as Albus Dumbledore and Katherine Parkinson as Molly Weasley.

The new series adaption begins production nearly 14 years after the final movie adaption of J.K. Rowling's books, "Harry

Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," was released in theaters. In addition to the blockbuster movies, the franchise has inspired a Broadway play, video games and theme parks since the first installment was released 28 years ago. The new series will be "a faithful adaptation of the beloved Harry Potter books," the network previously wrote, and "will feature an exciting and talented cast to lead a new generation of fandom, full of the fantastic detail and much-loved characters Harry Potter fans have adored for over 25 years." □

NASCAR teams 23XI and Front Row seek urgent court order to retain charters

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

The two race teams suing NASCAR over antitrust allegations filed for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction Monday to be recognized as chartered organizations for the remainder of 2025.

23XI Racing and Front Row Motorsports are locked in a lengthy legal battle over the charter system, which is the equivalent of the franchise model in other sports. 23XI, owned by retired NBA great Michael Jordan and three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin, and Front Row, owned by entrepreneur Bob Jenkins, last September rejected NASCAR's final proposal on extensions and instead filed an antitrust suit.

The case is winding its way through the court system but now with urgency: the teams were set to lose their charters Wednesday and in the latest filing, they allege NASCAR has indicated it will immediately begin the process of selling the six tags that guarantee entry into every race as well as



Michael Jordan, center, and Curtis Polk, left, co-owners of 23XI Racing, watch during qualifying beside 23XI Racing President Steve Lauletta, right, for a NASCAR Cup Series Championship auto race, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, in Avondale, Ariz.

monetary rewards and other benefits.

After the filing NASCAR was ordered to respond by 5 p.m. Wednesday which means there would be no ruling on if the charters will be revoked likely until Thursday, at the earliest.

"Today we filed a motion in the district court for a

renewed preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order to protect the teams' ability to race chartered for the remainder of the 2025 Cup Series season and prevent irreparable business harm to 23XI and Front Row Motorsports until we can present our case at trial in December,"

said Jeffery Kessler, attorney for the teams.

"New information surfaced through the discovery process that overwhelmingly supports our position that a preliminary injunction is legally warranted and necessary.

The teams' love of stock car racing and belief in a

better future for the sport for all parties teams, drivers, employees, sponsors, and fans continues to motivate their efforts to pursue this antitrust case."

There were large portions of the filing redacted because the arguments are based on information learned through discovery, making it confidential, for now. But, the urgency is likely tied to NASCAR indicating it plans to immediately begin selling the charters if they are revoked.

Should the teams have their six combined charters revoked, the drivers would have to qualify on speed to make each week's race and would receive a smaller percentage of the purse. They may also have to refund money paid out through the first 20 races of the year.

NASCAR accused 23XI and Front Row of filing "a third motion for another unnecessary and inappropriate preliminary injunction" and noted it has made multiple requests to the teams "to present a proposal to resolve this litigation." □

Associated Press

Yates wins Tour de France's first mountainous stage and Healy takes yellow jersey

LE MONT-DORE, France (AP)

— British rider Simon Yates won the first mountainous stage of the Tour de France on Monday and Irish rider Ben Healy was consoled by taking the yellow jersey.

Healy was nominated the most combative rider of the day after forcing the initiative on the 10th stage, but Yates - who won the Giro d'Italia last month - timed his break perfectly on the final climb to win a stage for the third time.

"It's been a long time, but actually I also was not really expecting any opportunities here," said Yates, a teammate of two-time Tour champion Jonas Vingegaard. "We came here fully focused on Jonas and the GC, so the stage played out in a way that I could be there for the

stage. I took it with both hands."

Dutch rider Thymen Arensman was 9 seconds behind, while Healy finished third, 31 seconds behind Yates.

Three-time Tour champion Tadej Pogačar finished farther back alongside main rival Vingegaard and French rider Lenny Martinez with a gap of 4 minutes, 51 seconds.

It meant Healy, who claimed his first stage victory on Thursday, took the overall lead, 29 seconds ahead of Pogačar.

Remco Evenepoel was third, 1:29 behind, and Vingegaard 1:46 behind in fourth.

"I'm still behind and I have to take time at one point," said Vingegaard, who remained positive that

Pogačar wasn't too far ahead.

"So far I've been able to follow all his attacks which I couldn't do in (Critérium du) Dauphiné," Vingegaard said, referring to the traditional Tour curtain-raiser. "I think that that shows that I have a better level now than I had in Dauphiné." Stage 10 took the riders on an arduous 165.3-kilometer route in the Massif Central France's south-central highland region from Ennezat through seven category two climbs.

It finished on the ascent of Puy de Sancy the region's highest peak after 3.3 kilometers of an 8% gradient climb.

French rider Julian Alaphilippe lived up to expectations with the first break on France's national

day, Bastille Day, carving out a 10-second lead before he was caught on the first climb up Côte de Loubeyrat.

Norwegian rider Søren Wærenskjold had to with-

draw early as the tough start proved too much after his crash the day before.

German rider Georg Zimmermann withdrew before the start following his crash on Sunday. □



Britain's Simon Yates crosses the finish line to win the the tenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 165.3 kilometers (102.7 miles) with start in Ennezat and finish in Le Mont-Dore Puy de Sancy, France, Monday, July 14, 2025.

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By Urvin Croes

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Curveballs are disappearing in MLB as velocity obsession reshapes pitching landscape

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Curveballs have been thrown a curve by a modern game valuing velocity over variety, disappearing from the major leagues by more than 20,000 annually.

The Athletics have thrown curves on just 2.5% of pitches this season.

The overall big league figure dropped from 10.7% in 2019 to 8.1% last year, the lowest since MLB starting tracking in 2008, before rising slightly to 8.5% this season.

There were 22,962 fewer curveballs in 2024 than five years earlier.

"You don't really see a lot of people throwing 12-6 curveballs anymore," Tampa Bay pitcher Shane Bieber said. "They'd rather have a hard cutter/slider. It's a lot easier for guys to throw a sweeper than it is a 12-6 curveball."

Baz's 28.1% is seventh in curveball use among those who have thrown at least 1,000 pitches this season.

Baltimore's Charlie Morton, first at 39%, learned to throw a hook from his dad. "He was reading some article or maybe he was reading some pitching book," Baltimore's 41-year-old right-hander said. "You basically throw it like you're re-throwing a knife."

Curveballs have been around for a century and a half

Hall of Famer Candy Cummings, a 145-game winner, is credited with inventing the curveball in 1863 when he was 14, discovering the movement when he threw sea shells into the Atlantic Ocean.

Some attribute the curve to amateur pitcher Fred Goldsmith in 1870.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw pitches during the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

With an average velocity of 80.2 mph, curves are the slowest and loopyest of breaking pitches, often disrupting the timing of batters set for smoke.

The phrase "thrown a curveball" has become part of the English language, much like "screwball," more a phrase than a pitch these days.

Sandy Koufax, Nolan Ryan and Clayton Kershaw were among the consummate curveballers, bamboozling batters as balls they gave up on dropped like hang gliders into the strike zone.

"It's become an industry of throwing over pitching," New York Yankees senior adviser Omar Minaya said. "When you pitch, you use different pitches. What we're seeing in the industry as a whole, especially with showcases, is people are looking more at velocity than pitchability as a scout, I said that unfortu-

nately."

Former pitcher Dallas Braden, now a broadcaster, longs for those days of deception.

"You almost sympathize with the hitter in the moment because you're like: Damn, I couldn't have hit that. He couldn't hit that. Nobody could have hit that," Braden said. "The eephus is now almost like as close as we get, when a position player is on the mound, to an aesthetically pleasing pitch like that, just the visual presentation of the pitch starting in the clouds and ending up at the Nike's 'Chicks Dig the Long Ball' commercial defined baseball in the Steroids Era.

These days the slogan might as well be: "Velo Rules!" There were just 214 pitches of 100 mph or more in 2008. There were a record 3,880 two years ago and this year is on track for

3,252.

In tandem, starting pitcher use has dropped. Starters have averaged just under 5 1/3 innings this season, down from 6 1/3 innings in the 1980s. Their pitch count averages 85.7, down from 97 in 2010.

Throw as hard as you can for as long as you can is the mantra

Average four-seam fastball velocity is a record 94.4 mph this season, up from 91.9 mph when MLB started tracking in 2008. But fastballs four-seam, two-seam and cutters, have dropped from 62.1% to 55%.

Those missing hooks and heaters have been replaced by sliders, sweepers and slurve.

They are 22.6% of pitches this year, up from 13.9% in 2008, and their average velocity has risen to 84.8 mph from 83.4 mph.

Colorado throws curves the most often at 15.6%,

not that it has brought any success to a team that entered the break at 22-74, on track for a 37-125 finish and the post-1900 record for losses.

The Athletics haven't thrown 10% curveballs since 2017.

"If you look around the game, swing and miss has taken more of a priority, so guys are trying to throw more sweepers with more horizontal movement, or they're trying to throw the slider really hard at the bottom of the zone," Athletics pitching coach Scott Emerson said. "They're worried about contact with the curveball."

Generational change in the 2020s

Veteran pitchers note the curve's decline as youngsters integrate into staffs.

"As you're an amateur going to the big leagues guys are looking at velo. Guys are just looking at stuff," Yankees ace Gerrit Cole said.

"Velo is important and it pays."

Maybe because the pitchers who throw curves are committed, batters have a .225 average this season on curves, down from .263 on fastballs and up slightly from .222 on sliders, sweepers and slurve.

"That's just how the game is trending: to throw it as hard as you can, spin it the best you can and hope the hitter doesn't hit it," Emerson said.

"The hitters are up there trying to swing as hard they can. If they hit it with hard contact, make 27 swings that are really hard, you got a chance to hit a homer here and there. And it's taken away from the contact-type pitchers." □